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The Effects of Nicotine and Tobacco Smoking on the Central Nervous System. Grant #631R2

The guiding hypothesis of this research is that people smoke for the neuropsychopharmacological effects of nicotine. The actions of nicotine and tobacco smoke are being investigated on the central nervous system of both animals and man using standard neuropharmacological tests. The following sites and mechanisms of action of nicotine are under investigation:

1. As a skeletal muscle relaxant.

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- 2. As an agent that stimulates the brainstem activating system, producing a wakeup effect and an increase in REM sleep.
- 3. As an excitatory modulator of lateral geniculate transmission.

Current Grant Level: \$30,821.

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